

A  
DESCRIPTION  
OF A  
SET of PRINTS  
OF  
**Scripture History:**

CONTAINED IN  
*A SET of EASY LESSONS.*

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By Mrs. TRIMMER.

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To the Countess de GENLIS,

MADAM,

**I** BEG leave to inscribe to you these Prints of SCRIPTURE HISTORY, intended as a prelude to a series of UNIVERSAL HISTORY.

Trifling as it is, I flatter myself, Madam, from the candour which shines forth in your writings, that you will not disdain to patronize the humble imitation of your own excellent Scheme, for ornamenting those apartments in which children receive the first rudiments of their education, with objects calculated at once to delight and to improve.



Happy should I think myself, Madam, could I contribute, even in the smallest degree, to repay the obligation which you have conferred on the young persons of this kingdom; by furnishing in return, those young ladies and gentlemen of France, who study the *English Language*, with such easy lessons as may facilitate the task to them, and their Instructors.

viii DEDICATION.

That a friendly intercourse  
may long subsist between the  
two kingdoms, and that your  
works may continue to receive  
due honour in both, is the sincere  
wish of,

MADAM,

*Your most obedient,*

*and humble Servant,*

S. TRIMMER,

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## INTRODUCTION.

**T**HE world, or earth, is a very large globe, made at first out of nothing by the Almighty power of God, and preserved ever since by his Providence. It consists of land and water, and is divided into many different parts, called countries: these countries are inhabited by different nations; that is to say, each country has a particular set of people, who claim a certain portion of the world as their own; for instance, Eng-

land belongs to the English nation, France to the French nation, and so forth.

The ocean, or largest body of water in the world, from whence different seas flow, and into which all rivers run, is the common property of mankind in general, and serves to make different nations acquainted with, and useful to each other, by mean of ships which sail on it to distant countries. But many seas branching from the ocean, have been so far claimed by particular nations, that they would not allow ships belonging to other countries to sail on

them, so as to annoy their coasts, or injure their trade and commerce: by trade is meant selling things, by commerce exchanging what one country produces for what grows or is manufactured in another.

In differet ages of the world there have been a great many different nations in the severall parts of it; for those people who at one time possessed a country, have been driven from it by nations more powerful than themselves, as it has pleased God, the *Supreme Governor* of all things, that one should rise, and another fall.

History is an account of things that have happened in the world, written to preserve the remembrance of them; and also to serve as examples and warnings to the various inhabitants of the earth who should come in after ages. Universal history includes that of all the nations which have at any time been known to live in the world. Antient history relates to ages long past. Modern history is that of the kingdoms and states at present existing. History is also divided into Sacred and Profane. Sacred history is that which is to be found in the Scrip-

tures ; it was written by men taught by God to inform the world, that He governs all things, and that, He deals out happiness and prosperity to nations who fear and serve him, and brings judgments and destructions on those who are wicked. Profane history is that which was composed by men who wrote accounts of what they had themselves either seen, heard, or read, concerning the rise and fall of nations, and the acts of particular persons.

The prints we are going to describe relate to Sacred History, and are called Scripture Prints; because the subjects of them are taken from the Bible.



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## A DESCRIPTION, &c.

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### *Number I.*

ADAM and EVE DRIVEN out of PARADISE.

WHEN the world was first made there was only one man and woman in it; the name of the man was Adam, the woman was called Eve; they lived in a charming place called the Garden of Eden, or Paradise, and might have been happy for ever; but they dis-

16      A DESCRIPTION *of* PRINTS *of*  
obeyed GOD, by eating of the fruit  
of the tree of knowledge, and GOD  
punished them for it, by taking away  
the blessings he had given them, and  
sending the angel with a flaming sword,  
to drive them out of Paradise and from  
the Tree of Life. While Adam and  
Eve lived in Paradise, they had per-  
mission to eat of the fruit of the *tree of*  
*life*, which is supposed to have kept them  
from sickness and death; but afterward  
they were subject to death, because they  
had committed sin by disobeying GOD;  
for *death is the punishment ordained by*  
*GOD for sin.*

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*Number II.*

## CAIN SLAYING his BROTHER ABEL.

CAIN and Abel were the first sons of Adam and Eve. Abel was very good, but Cain very ill-natured. God loved Abel, and so did his father and mother. Cain hated him on this account, and killed him; but God took Abel to heaven, and Cain was driven into a strange land, where he was very unhappy.

*Number III.*

## THE FLOOD.

**A**DAM and Eve had several other children; and these children grew to be men and women, and had families, and so on, for a great number of years, till there were a vast many people in the world; and they were at last all wicked, excepting one man, called Noah, and his family, who were very good. God, therefore caused a most violent rain than can be imagined to pour down from the sky; and made the seas and

rivers overflow the whole earth in so dreadful a manner, that all the wicked people were drowned, and only Noah and his family saved alive.

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### *Number IV.*

NOAH coming out of the ARK.

NOAH was preserved in a vessel called an ark, something like a ship: he had a great many living creatures with him, some of all sorts, two of some kinds, and seven of others; when the Flood was over, and the earth was dry, Noah

A DESCRIPTION *of* PRINTS *of*  
came out of the ark, and all those crea-  
tures with him ; and he and his family  
were very thankful to God for his good-  
to them.

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*Number V.*

The TOWER of BABEL.

AFTER the flood, Noah's three sons,  
Shem, Ham, and Japhet, had children ;  
and these children grew to be men and  
women, and had families also, and so  
on for a number of years, till there  
were once more a great many people in  
the world. Most of these were very

wicked and proud, and said, "God, *should* not destroy them;" so they began building a high tower, thinking to go up to heaven by it, if there should come another flood; but God punished them, by making many of them forget all the words they before knew, and call every thing by strange names, so that they could not all understand one another. On this account they divided into many parties, and went away from the country where those lived who feared God, and had no hand in building the Tower of Bable, as it was called. Such as made use of the *same* words went to-



gether to the same places ; and by this mean, a great many parts of the world had people in them, which had not any before. And in time these different sets of people multiplied into nations, whose histories have been transmitted to us.

The confusion of tongues was a very remarkable judgment inflicted by God on a proud and arrogant people, and teaches us, that we should be humble, and trust to divine providence for our preservation ; not to our own strength and wisdom.



The ORIGIN of IDOLATRY.

WHILE Noah lived, he instructed all his family to pray to God ; and they all knew that there was but one God ; but when mankind were separated and scattered about in different parts of the world, they took strange fancies into their heads, which led them to believe that there were a great many gods ; some supposed the sun, moon, and stars to be gods, and worshipped them ; others thought that kings and conquerors became gods after they died, and so paid

A DESCRIPTION *of* PRINTS *of*  
adoration to them; many worshipped  
birds, beasts, and reptiles; and some  
prayed to images which their own hands  
had made. This idolatry, as the wor-  
ship of false gods is called, was very  
displeasing to the ALMIGHTY, and pro-  
voked him to bring judgments upon the  
different nations that practised them.

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The HISTORY of ABRAHAM.

IN the city of Haran in Mesopotamia,  
lived a man named Abram, who had an  
excellent good heart; but it is thought  
that he worshipped idols, because his  
parents had taught him to do so from

his infancy. As God knew that Abram did this through ignorance, he called to him from heaven, and told him, that if he would leave his country, and go to a land which he should show him, he would make of him a great nation; so Abram immediately departed as the LORD commanded him, and took Sarah his wife, and Lot his nephew, and went into the land of Canaan, to which place God had directed him to go. Both Abram and Lot had great flocks of cattle, and many servants, so that they could not conveniently dwell near together for want of

room ; and this occasioned disagreements between their servants. Abram was a very generous man, and thought it would be extremely wrong for him to contend with his near relation, so he proposed to Lot, that each of them should remove with his substance, that they might be at a more convenient distance, and gave Lot the first choice of the country, in consequence of which, Lot took up his residence at Sodom.

A long while after this GOD ALMIGHTY said unto Abram again, that he would make of him a great nation, as numerous as the stars in the firma-

ment. At this time Abram was an old man, and had not so much as one child, yet he believed God. Sometime after this he had a son named Ishmael, and Abram concluded that the great nation was to proceed from him; but when Ishmael was grown a big lad, the LORD changed Abram's name to that of Abraham (which signifies *the father of many nations*) and promised him another son, who was to be named Isaac; from him God told him the great nation should proceed, in whom all the families of the earth should be blessed. God also promised, that from Ishmael should

28      A DESCRIPTION *of* PRINTS *of*  
arise another great nation. At the very  
time which God had named, Isaac was  
born, to the great joy of Abraham and  
his wife Sarah. Ishmael was a very  
rude boy, and behaved extremely ill to  
Isaac, so he was sent away from home  
with his mother Hagar, and he after-  
ward settled in Arabia.

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*Number VI.*

The DESTRUCTION of SODOM and Go-  
MORRAH.

SODOM, where Lot dwelt, and Go-  
morrah, which was near it, were two

fine cities ; but the people were so wicked, that there was not any good person in them, excepting Lot and his family. God commanded Lot to go to another place, and then rained down fire and brimstone on Sodom and Gomorrah, and destroyed them. So he saved Lot ; but his wife wanted to go back to Sodom, for which she was turned into a pillar of salt, and remained for many years a monument of God's just anger, to remind those who had rather live among wicked people than serve God, that they may be cut off in a moment by his Almighty power.



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*Number VII.*

ABRAHAM going to SACRIFICE his SON  
ISAAC.

ABRAHAM's son Isaac grew to be a very fine promising lad, and his father and mother were exceedingly fond of him; but though Abraham loved his son dearly, he loved God still more. God knew his heart; so that Abraham might show the world how he loved God, God commanded him to kill his son, and offer him up as a burnt-offering. Abraham knew that God



could bring Isaac to life again, so he prepared to obey; but just as he was lifting up the knife to stick it into Isaac, God called to him from heaven, and said, he had done enough, and desired him to unbind his son, and take a ram, which was entangled in a thicket, and offer him in the stead of Isaac. Abraham with joy and thankfulness obeyed, and afterwards returned home with his son. Abraham in every thing beside obeyed God, and is for that reason called the *Father of the faithful*; that is to say, of good people, who love God above all things; all these are reckoned part

A DESCRIPTION *of* PRINTS *of*  
of Abraham's family. Some time after  
this, Sarah the mother of Isaac died.

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*Number* VIII.

RABECCA at the WELL.

WHEN Isaac was grown a man,  
and Abraham was very old indeed,  
Abraham wanted his son to marry, that  
he might have a family; and he did  
not like that he should chuse a wife  
among those wicked people who did  
not pray to God and praise him; so he  
sent a very trusty servant, called his  
steward, to another country, a great

way off, where he had some relations who had not quite forgotten God. The steward rode upon a camel, such a beast as is shown in the print, and he carried things with him upon other camels. The poor beasts were very thirsty, for they had gone a great way without water; so he stopt at a well, and there he kneeled down and prayed to God, that the woman Isaac was to have might come and draw him some water; for the young women in that part of the world, used in those days, to draw water for the sheep and cattle, because they had no ponds for them to drink at.

As soon as his prayer was ended, Rebecca came with her sheep, and kindly offered to get some water for him and the camels : the steward on asking her name, found she was the daughter of his master's brother, which pleased him much ; so he went home with her, and gained her father's leave to take her with him ; and when she arrived in the country where Isaac lived, she was married to him and served God as he did, and made a very good wife.

When Abraham had settled his son Isaac to his mind, he married another wife, named Keturah, and had several

sons, to whom, as they grew up, he gave portions, and sent them into another country at a distance from Isaac, that they might not dispute with him the inheritance of that land which God had given to Abraham for the great nation.

Abraham lived to the age of a hundred and seventy-five years, and then died, and was buried by his sons Isaac and Ishmael.

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### *Number IV.*

ESAU and JACOB.

**F**OR some time Isaac and Rebecca had no child, which made them very

unhappy, for Isaac wished to be the father of the great nation, so he prayed to God to let him and his wife have a child; and soon after they had two sons at once; one of these little boys was named Esau, and the other Jacob. As Esau grew up he was very fond of the sports of the field, but Jacob liked to stay in the house. Esau very often brought home venison for his father, who was pleased with his attention, and loved him better than he did Jacob, who attached himself more particularly to his mother, and became her darling.

The promise which God made to Abraham he renewed to Isaac, and told him that he would bless him, and give to his descendants all those countries which he had promised to Abraham; and that in his seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

As Esau was his eldest son, Isaac pleased himself with the hopes, that the great nation would proceed from him; but Esau himself did not appear to have set any value on this promise, to which his birth seemed to entitle him; for it happened one day that he came in from hunting very hungry, and seeing Jacob



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with a nice mess of broth before him,  
he entreated him to give it to him ;  
Jacob, who wished of all things to be  
the father of the great nation, and know-  
ing how little Esau valued the privi-  
lege, replied, That he would give him  
the broth if he would resign his birth-  
right ; to this Esau readily consented,  
and swore unto Jacob, that he would  
relinquish all claim to it.

Jacob loved God, and believed his  
promises, which made him so desirous  
of inheriting them.      Esau despised  
them, and thought they were not worth  
having ; but Jacob was very wrong in



taking advantage of his brother's necessities ; and some time after he did another very bad thing by his mother's desire ; which was, to dress himself up in his brother's cloaths, and make his poor old father (who was blind, and could not see, but only feel him) believe, that he really was Efau ; by which means he got him to pronounce on him the blessing which he intended for his eldest son ; and the good old man prayed that the blessing of the LORD might attend him ; and that he might have dominion over all his family. This was a very artful trick, and Jacob

was punished for it; for when Esau returned, he went to his father, not knowing what had passed, and claimed the blessing. When Isaac discovered the deceit which had been practised, he was greatly afflicted, and gave to Esau all that he could; but Esau was so angry with his brother, that he declared he would kill him as soon as his father was dead; so Jacob was obliged to flee away, and go to a place a great way off. When he had suffered as much as God pleased, he had a promise, that all his father prayed for should come to pass. If Esau had done his duty, and prayed

to God, he would not have let his brother Jacob get the blessing from him.

If Jacob had not been sly and artful, he would not have been obliged to leave his comfortable home, and would have inherited the promises which God designed for him; because God knew that he would worship Him alone, and that Esau would connect himself with the idolatrous nations, by taking wives among them.

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*Number X.*

JOSEPH SOLD by his BRETHREN.

**A**MONG other things which God had made known to Abraham long before they came to pass. He foretold, that his descendants should serve a strange nation, and be afflicted by them four hundred years; but that in the fourth generation they should return into their own land again. The strange land was Egypt, and the cause of the descendants of Abraham going thither was as follows: Jacob had twelve sons,

the youngest but one was named Joseph; he was a very good lad indeed, and his father loved him better than the elder ones, which made them jealous, and they resolved to kill him; so one day, when his father sent him to see how they did, they were going to do it; but one of them, named Reuben, who had more pity than the rest, begged they would only throw him into a pit, from whence he thought to take him up when his cruel brothers were gone away; but just as they had put him in, some people, who bought men to work for them, as negroes are now bought,

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came by, and Joseph's brethren sold  
him to them, and then took a fine  
coat, which his father had given him,  
and dipped it in blood, to make Jacob  
believe his darling was killed by a wild  
beast; which made the poor old man  
ready to break his heart with sorrow.  
Joseph was carried into a country called  
Egypt, and there behaved so well, that  
at last the King made him a very great  
man next to himself; and though his  
brothers had used him so cruelly, he  
gave them corn for bread when they  
were starving, and forgave them with  
all his heart; and he sent for his father,

who was old and feeble, to come and live with him, who was greatly rejoiced to see him again.

When Jacob came into Egypt, he brought his whole family with him, all his sons, and their wives and children, and they settled there, and in a number of years came to be a great many persons, and they were called Israelites; because Israel was one of Jacob's names. The names of Jacob's twelve sons were, REUBEN, SIMEON, LEVI, JUDAH, DAN, NAPHTALI, GAD, ASHER, ISSACHAR, ZEBULUN, JOSEPH, BENJAMIN. They



A DESCRIPTION *of* PRINTS *of*  
were the heads of the twelve tribes of  
Israel.

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*Number XI.*

MOSES in the BULRUSHES.

**J**OSEPH, when he was old, died, and  
so did that King Pharaoh, who made him  
a great man: and there was another King  
Pharaoh, who did not fear God, nor  
care about Joseph; but he was afraid  
the Israelites would get his kingdom  
away, so he made them work very hard  
indeed, and set people over them to  
beat them if they did not do their tasks;

he also commanded, that if any of them should have little boys, they should be thrown into the river. A man named Amram had a very fine little boy, and his wife Jochebed hid this child for three months; but as Jochebed knew the Egyptians would find him at last, she made a kind of cradle of bulrushes, and laid it by the river's side, and then prayed to God to preserve him. Soon after she left him, Pharaoh's daughter came that way, and seeing the ark, sent her maid to fetch it; and when she had opened it she saw the child, and it cried, which moved her com-

passion; his sister Miriam, who was waiting with great anxiety to see what would become of her poor little brother, observed that the princess was disposed to show pity to him, said to Pharaoh's daughter, Shall I go and get a nurse for him? And Pharaoh's daughter said, Go. So Miriam ran and fetched his mother, who gladly took him home and nursed him; and when he was grown up a little, Pharaoh's daughter took him to live with her, and treated him as her son, and she gave him the name of Moses.

*Number XII.*

PHARAOH and his HOST DROWNED, &c.

WHEN Moses grew a man, he prayed to God, and praised him, as his mother had taught him to do, and God loved him, and God appeared to him, and told him he should bring the people of Israel out of Egypt, and commanded him to take his brother Aaron with him, and go to Pharaoh and tell him, that the people of Israel must go and pray to God in the wilderness.

Moses and Aaron did so; but Pharaoh was in a great rage, and said, he

did not fear God, and they should not go. So God wrought very wonderful things, to make Pharaoh and the people of Egypt fear him, and at last killed all their eldest sons. Pharaoh then let the Israelites go: but soon after they were gone, he was very sorry, and said they should not serve God, they should serve him; so he got his people together and went after them; but God caused the waters of the Red Sea to divide, so that the Israelites went through on dry land, and as soon as the Egyptians went after them, he brought the waters back again, and drowned them all.

*Number XIII.*

MOSES with the Two TABLES of the LAW  
in his HAND.

**MOSES** did what God commanded him, and the people followed him as their leader; but sometimes they were ill-humoured, though God did wonders for them. When they were very thirsty, and could not get water, he caused some to flow from a stony rock. He sent bread down from heaven for them every day; and at length they came safely to a mountain called mount Sinai. God called Moses to come up to the top of

the mountain, and there spake the words of the commandments, and commanded Moses to tell them to the people. These commandments were afterward written by God upon two tables of stone, and given to Moses. When he came down from the mountain his face shone so, that the people could not look at him : and it is for this reason Moses is drawn with rays darting from each side of his head.

When Jacob left Canaan to go into the land of Egypt, his whole family, of sons and grandsons, including Joseph and his sons, amounted to no more than threescore and ten. When the Israelites



were numbered in the wilderness, two years after they left Egypt, the men that were able to bear arms amounted to six hundred and three thousand five hundred and fifty; the Levites to seven thousand five hundred more, besides old men, women, and children; so they became a great nation as God had promised.

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*Number XIV.*

AARON in his HIGH PRIEST'S GARMENTS.

WHEN God had given Moses the commandments and other laws, he told him to make a Tabernacle, which was a

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sort of tent, to serve the purpose of a  
church, in which the people were to  
pray to him, and praise him ; and Aaron  
was to be the high priest, or chief mi-  
nister. In the print he is shown in the  
dress which God commanded to be made  
for him to wear in the tabernacle. The  
tribe of Levi were all employed in the  
service of the tabernacle. When Aaron  
was an old man he died, and Eleazer  
his son was made High Priest. Some-  
time after, Moses died in a good old  
age, and Joshua was appointed to go-  
vern Israel.

*Number XV.*

JOSHUA the LEADER of the ARMY of the  
ISRAELITES.

WHEN God delivered the Israelites out of Egypt, he promised to bring them to a better land called Canaan, where they should have plenty of corn, milk, and honey, and whatever they stood in need of. This was the land which God gave to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as an inheritance for their descendants when they should be multiplied into a nation; and had the

Israelites been obedient to the LORD, they would have been put in possession of it immediately on their leaving Egypt; but they distrusted the promises of GOD, and murmured at the trials he thought fit to throw in their way, and sometimes worshipped idols, therefore GOD would not let them go to Canaan, but made them wander forty years in the wilderness; by which time all that came from Egypt died. After Moses died, Joshua was appointed to command the next race of Israelites; and he was ordered to go with them and kill the wicked people who dwelt

in Canaan, because they worshipped idols, and instead of serving God set themselves against him; so Joshua did as God commanded, and after having subdued their idolators, he divided the land among the Israelites as God appointed.

Among other miracles, God caused the sun to stand still a whole day, at the desire of Joshua, that he might see to finish one of his battles.

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### *Number XVI.*

SAMSON carrying the GATES of GAZA.

A LONG time after the death of Joshua, the people not having served

GOD well, had been punished, by his letting their enemies, the Philistines, get the better of them; but they were very sorry, and prayed to GOD to deliver them; so he gave to a man called Samson, such a deal of strength, that he could kill a lion as if it were only a lamb, and fight hundreds of men at once: and Samson was made their leader. At one time he let the Philistines take him prisoner, and bind him, first with strong cords, which he broke as if they had been burnt with fire; another time he took the gates of the city in which he was shut up, and carried them on his

shoulders, though secured with bars of iron. But Samson was a very foolish man, and did not obey God's commands, so he suffered him to loose his strength, and the Philistines took him to prison, and put out his eyes. Samson then was very sorry, and prayed to God to pardon him; and God gave him his strength again. Samson still could not see to lead the Israelites to battle; but one day, the Philistines thinking to divert themselves, fetched him into a place, where, instead of serving God, they prayed to an image, called Dagon. Whilst they were rejoicing, Samson took hold of the pillars,



60 A DESCRIPTION of PRINTS of  
and pulled the whole building down;  
by which he killed so many of the Phi-  
listines, that the Israelites soon after got  
the better of them.

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*Number XVII.*

HANNAH bringing her CHILD to ELI the  
HIGH PRIEST.

IN the days of Eli, who was High  
Priest, and also Judge of Israel, there  
was in the land of Israel a very good  
woman, named Hannah, who had no  
children, which made her unhappy;

for she wished for some, that she might teach them to love God ; so she prayed to God, that he would please to let her have a child. Her prayer was granted, and she had a son, whom she named Samuel. As soon as he could speak, she taught him to serve God ; and when he was four years old, she brought him to Eli the High Priest, and told him, that as God granted her that son, because she prayed for him, she wished to have him spend his whole life in serving God ; so Eli took him to live with him, and Samuel grew wiser and better every year, till

at length God made him his prophet ;  
that is, employed him to tell the people what God chose they should do ;  
and he judged Israel several years, till  
at last the people of Israel insisted upon  
having a king, which was very foolish  
and wicked ; because as they were the  
great nation that proceeded from Abraham,  
Isaac, and Jacob, God was to  
them instead of a king, giving them  
laws and commandments, and sending  
them to destroy all who worshipped  
idols.

*Number XVIII.*

SAUL, the first KING of ISRAEL.

SAUL was a man in a mean station ; but as the people of Israel desired to have a king, God raised Saul to the throne ; on condition that he should follow the direction of Samuel the prophet, to whom God continued to make known his holy will, respecting the destruction of the heathens, and government of Israel. Saul was very valiant, and behaved well in the beginning of his reign,

64      A DESCRIPTION *of* PRINTS *of*  
but afterward grew proud, and disobeyed God; so God sent Samuel to tell him, that none of his sons should be king after him; and Saul was very unhappy all the rest of his life.

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*Number XIX.*

DAVID with GOLIAH'S HEAD.

DAVID was the son of a man named Jesse: he was a very good youth, and loved God with all his heart. When Saul proved wicked, God chose David to be the next king, but did

not let him come to the throne till after Saul's death. When David was a very young man, there was a war between the Israelites and the Philistines; amongst the Philistines was a monstrous giant named Goliath, who terrified Saul and his people very much; but David, trusting in God, was enabled by him to kill Goliath with only a sling and a stone, and he cut off the giant's head with his own sword; by this act he delivered the Israelites from their enemies.

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*Number XX.*

DAVID as KING of ISRAEL.

AFTER Saul's death David became king of Israel ; he was a mighty prince, and continued to love God all his life ; on which account God gave him the honour of conquering a vast many heathen nations, and raised the glory of Israel to a very high pitch. It was the delight of David's life to show his gratitude to God, and he composed a number of fine Psalms of



prayer and praise, which he sung while he played on the harp; and this is the reason why he is usually drawn with a harp in his hand.

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### *Number XXI.*

ABSALOM hanging in the OAK.

DAVID had many sons, amongst them was one named Absalom; he was a very handsome young man, but liked better to follow idle sports than to serve God, and he did not love his good father, but courted the people to make him king in David's stead, and

some were foolish and wicked enough to join him; so he raised an army, and went to fight against his father, who was so kind to him, that he begged all his own officers to save Absalom's life; but God would not suffer such an undutiful son to go unpunished; so, as he was riding along, his fine hair, of which he was very proud, got entangled in the boughs of an oak, and the mule he rode on left him hanging, till Joab, one of David's officers, saw him, and killed him with a spear. Far from rejoicing at this, David was exceedingly afflicted, and

said, " O that I had died for thee!  
O Absalom, my son! my son!

When David was a very old man, he made one of his sons, whose name was Solomon, king in his stead, and shortly after this he died.

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## *Number XXII.*

### SOLOMON ON his THRONE.

SOLOMON was the wisest man who ever lived in the world, and whilst he prayed to God, and esteemed himself as king of Israel by the favour of God, and honoured him, as it was his duty

to do, he was the greatest monarch upon earth; for all the surrounding nations were either in subjection to him, or in friendship with him; and he lived in the greatest splendor imaginable, and built a most magnificent temple for the worship of God at Jerusalem, which remained for many years, and was called Solomon's Temple; but after some time he grew vain in his wisdom, and married a great many wives out of different nations, and they prevailed on him to set up idols in the land of Israel; on which account God was angry with

him ; and told him, that he would take the kingdom from his family, and would have taken it from him, but for his father David's sake.

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*Number XXIII.*

JEROBOAM with the ISRAELITES worshipping  
the GOLDEN CALF.

SOLOMON had a son named Rehoboam, who came to the throne after his father ; he was a foolish prince ; for, instead of taking the counsel of wise old men, he took the advice of persons of

his own age, and told his people he would use them ill; on which a great many of them made Jeroboam, who was one of his officers, king. The kingdom of Israel was now divided into two parts; that under Rehoboam was called the kingdom of Judah, because the king was of the tribe of Judah; and that tribe adhered to him, and so did the tribe of Benjamin.

The other ten tribes under Jeroboam were called the kingdom of Israel. Jeroboam was very proud and wicked, and made a golden calf for the people to pray to instead of God. Because he was

afraid that if they should go to the Temple at Jerusalem, they would forsake him, and return to Rehoboam; but as he was offering to the calf in the same manner as the Priests did to God in the Temple, there came a prophet to him and told him that the altar would certainly be destroyed; on which Jeroboam put out his hand to lay hold on the prophet, but God caused it to wither, and the altar was immediately split in pieces. Terrified by these miracles, Jeroboam entreated the prophet to pray for him, who did so, and his hand was restored. Jeroboam did not



return from his evil ways, but taught the Israelites to be idolators. He built the city of Samaria.

After the death of Jeroboam a number of kings reigned over Israel. And after the death of Rehoboam a number of kings reigned over Judah; but the glory of the nation was taken away, because the king and people did not serve and obey God truly.

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*Number XXIV.*

ELIJAH fed by RAVENS.

ONE of the kings of Israel was named Ahab; he was a wicked man, and he

married a queen named Jezebel, who was a professed idolatress. In the days of Ahab lived Elijah, who was a very good man, and God made him a prophet; that is, put words in his mouth, and sent him to foretel things that were to come to pass at a future time; and also to tell the king, and people, what they must do to please God. The wicked king Ahab, and his queen Jezebel, wanted to kill him; so God bade him go and hide himself in a retired place, where they could not find him. Here Elijah had nothing to eat, so God made ravens carry to him, every morning

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and evening, bread and meat, and af-  
terward wrought other miracles to sus-  
tain him, and would not suffer Ahab or  
Jezebel to hurt him.

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*Number XXV.*

ELIJAH taken up into HEAVEN.

ELIJAH continued faithful to God  
all his life, and though he knew the  
king and queen wanted to kill him, he  
went wherever God bade him, and did  
all that he commanded him to do,  
and was a prophet for a number of  
years ; at length, because he had been

so good, GOD told him he should not die, but he would take him up into heaven; so God sent some of his angels, and Elijah was taken up in the clouds, in which he appeared in as a chariot of fire: so his enemies knew that God could save his servants from their rage; and those who loved God learned that there was a place of glory for them.

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*Number XXVI.*

Wicked YOUNG MEN killed by BEARS.

ELISHA had for some time been the friend of Elijah, and after Elijah was

taken up into heaven, Elisha was the prophet of God in his room, and he was a very good man. One day as he was going to a place called Bethel, a number of wicked young men saw him, and instead of showing him respect as they should have done, if he had been no more than a good old man, they behaved very rudely to him, and called him Bald-head, and bade him go up like his master Elijah. But God would not let his prophet be used in this manner; so he sent two great bears, which ran among these wicked young men, and killed forty-two of them.

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*Number XXVII.*

JEZEBEL eaten by Dogs.

**J**EZEBEL, the wicked queen who used Elijah so ill, instead of loving God, hated him, and killed as many good people, who prayed to God and served him, as she could. King Ahab, her husband, was killed in battle, and the dogs licked up his blood, and all his family, whom he brought up wickedly, were murdered. Queen Jezebel was, by the direction of Jehu, whom

GOD sent to be king of Israel and to punish her, thrown out at a window by her own servants, and trampled to death by horses, and all her flesh was eaten up by dogs. So you see these wicked people were punished in the eyes of the world, and Elijah was honoured.

The kings and people of Israel continued to be very wicked, though GOD often sent prophets to them to persuade them to repent, and to promise them forgiveness if they would turn from idols and serve him; so at last he suffered Shalmaneser, king of Assyria, to take their king prisoner, and carry them



away as captives into a strange land, for they were not fit to be a great nation any longer. Shalmaneser placed a mixed multitude of people in their cities, and those people were afterward known by the name of Samaritans, from Samaria the principal city.

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\* See Number V. of *Assyrian Monarchy*.—Antient History, Part First.

*Number XXVIII.*

JONAH delivered from the WHALE.

**J**ONAH was a prophet, whom God bade to go to a great city called Nineveh, and tell the people, who were very wicked, that if they did not grow good he would destroy them all in forty days; but Jonah was afraid to go with such a message, so he took ship to sail to another place: on which God was angry with him, and raised a great

storm, and the sailors hearing how wicked Jonah had been threw him into the sea, where a great fish swallowed him up, but did not kill him; for God kept him alive within side of it. Jonah was very sorry for what he had done, so God made the fish cast him out of his mouth on dry land; and after he had returned thanks he went to Nineveh; and all the people became good, so God saved them for that time.\*

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\* See Number IV. of *Assyrian Monarchy*.—*Antient History*, Part I.

*Number XXIX.*

NEBUCHADNEZZAR eating GRASS like OXEN.

**G**OD gave to Nebuchadnezzar vast power and riches, with which he might have done a great deal of good, but he grew proud and forgot that God gave them to him, and said, the might of his own arm had gained them. He did not even pray to God, so God took all his senses away from him, and he became like a beast going about upon his hands and knees, and eating grass with the oxen; thus he was for some years.

till God made him well, and gave him his kingdom again. Then Nebuchadnezzar knew that God can humble the proudest hearts, and subdue the most powerful conquerors.

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*Number XXX.*

SHADRACH MESHACH, and ABED-NEGO,  
coming out of the FIERY FURNACE.

AMONG the kings of Judah there were some good monarchs, and some bad ones; whenever a good king reigned, and the people served God, they were prosperous and happy; whenever a bad one ruled, and idolatry was prac-

tised, they were oppressed by their enemies, and became very wretched. At length the kings and the people of Judah grew so very wicked, that it was a dishonour to God to suffer them to continue in the land of their inheritance. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, themselves would have been ready to disown them as their descendants, and they were unfit to be a great nation, so God raised up a mighty conqueror, called Nebuchadnezzar who came against them, took the city of Jerusalem, burnt the Temple of Solomon, killed numbers of the Jews (as the people of

Judah were called) and carried the rest into captivity.\*

Those Jews who were carried into captivity behaved so well that they gained the favour of their conquerors. Among those captives were Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, three very good young men : Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, set up a golden image, and commanded every body to pray to it, and praise it instead of God ; and said, that those who would not do so, should be thrown into a burning fiery

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\* See Number VII. of *Assyrian Monarchy*.—Antient History Part First.



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furnace. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-  
nego would not obey him, but kept  
on praying to God ; so Nebuchadnezzar  
did as he said he would, and they  
were cast into the furnace with their  
hands tied, and all their cloaths on ;  
but GOD kept the fire from burning  
them, and they walked about as if they  
weré in the open air. When the King  
saw that, he cried out, “ Shadrach  
Meshach, and Abed-nego, ye servants  
of the living God, come out of the  
fire ! ” He then gave command, that  
the men who spake against them, should,

be cast into the furnace, who were all burnt up in a moment.

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*Number XXXI.*

DANIEL in the LIONS' DEN.

**DANIEL** was a prophet, and a very good man ; he was carried prisoner into Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar, where he made it a constant rule to pray to God, and praise him three times every day. When he grew old, many years after

Nebuchadnezzar was dead, there was a king named Darius,\* who loved Daniel; but some wicked people persuaded this king to give orders, that nobody should say their prayers for thirty days, under pain of being thrown into a den of lions; still Daniel kept on praying to God as usual, and so was thrown into the Den. Darius was very sorry, and lay awake all night thinking of him; in the morning he got up very early, and went to the den,

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\* See Number I. *Persian Monarchy*.—Antient History, Part First.

where he found Daniel alive and well ; for God had kept the lions from hurting him ; then he was taken out, and all those who had him put there, thrown in, whom the lions ate up in an instant.

The Jews were in captivity at Babylon seventy years, and then were set at liberty by Cyrus, who founded the Persian monarchy\*. Cyrus gave them leave to rebuild their city and Temple, which they began in his reign ; but

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\* See Number I. of *Persian Monarchy*.—Antient History, Part First.

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under succeeding kings, they met with  
great hindrances, particularly by means  
of the Samaritans; but it happened very  
fortunately for them, that one of the  
Persian kings, names Artaxerxes, had  
for his Queen a young Jewess, named  
Esther; this lady interceded for them  
to the king, who permitted Ezra, a  
learned and good man, to go and settle  
the Jews again in their own land.\*

Ezra gave them the books of Scrip-  
ture, and instructed them in their

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\* See Number VI. of *Persian Monarchy*.—Antient  
History, Part First.

duty ; but they afterwards degenerated, and were oppressed and persecuted under the different monarchies which prevailed in the world.

Among their most cruel persecutors was Antiochus, Epiphanes\*, who entered into the Temple, and took away all the vessels and ornaments of it, and massacred a great number of the people, because they would not forsake God and worship idols ; but it pleased God to give them a deliverer, named Judas Maccabæus

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\* See Number V. of *Roman Monarchy*.—Antient History, Part First.

*Number XXXII.*

JUDAS MACCABÆUS.

JUDAS MACCABÆUS was the son of Matthias, who was himself a very valiant man, and performed great exploits; but being old he died, and Judas rose up in his stead. So he girt his warlike armour about him, and went forth to battle, protecting the true worshippers of God, and killing all those who oppressed them. With a very inconsiderable number of sol-



diers, he defeated the vast armies of Syria and other nations, who invaded Judea. But at last, forgetting that he was to depend upon God alone, he applied to the Romans, a very powerful people, and begged their assistance in subduing the enemies of the people of Israel, on which account God suffered him to be slain in battle.

After the death of Judas, his brothers performed very valiant acts, and Israel began to be in a flourishing state again, though nothing in comparison of what it had been in former days; and the rulers forgot that no man who was not

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of the lineage of David had any right  
to be king over them; for they suf-  
fered Judas Aristobulus to put a royal  
diadem on his head, and call himself  
*King of the Jews*; after him, several  
others bore the same title; the last of  
whom was called *Herod the Great*, in  
whose reign our SAVIOUR JESUS  
CHRIST was born; and Judea became  
a Roman province.

THE END.

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